

**Marine Advisory Committee
June 5, 2012
Milton, Florida**

The Marine Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Jeff Marker, Rick Harris, and Scott Mason. Also present were the County Administrator, Hunter Walker, Chris Verlinde, Marine Extension Agent, Roger Blaylock, County Engineer and Avis Whitfield, Public Works Director. Jeff Marker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting were approved.

Mr. Marker opened the meeting for public input. George Engstrom of 5660 Tarpon Court, Milton presented the Committee with a Petition for a No Wake or Low Speed Zone on the narrow passage section of Indian Bayou. He stated that personal watercraft users are creating a safety issue in that narrow section of Indian Bayou directly in front of the six homes facing the island in the middle of the canal. He also noted that the owner of the RV Park east of the boat ramp signed the Petition.

Mr. Walker mentioned that he had contacted FWC and received an email from FWC outlining their requirements and recommendation for that area (see attached).

After Committee discussion, Rick Harris made a motion to request the Board of County Commission approve an ordinance for a minimum wake zone from the boat ramp to the southwest end of the island and a request to the FWC for signage and enforcement. The motion was seconded by Scott Mason and approved without objection.

GULF ISLANDS SEASHORE UPDATE

Matthew Johnson, Ph.D. Marine Ecologist with the National Park Service gave a brief update on Seagrass Conservation in the Gulf Islands National Seashore. (See attached.) After a brief discussion the Committee recommended that staff provide a copy of the Resolution for Support adopted by Escambia County for review, modification and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners by the Marine Advisory Committee at their August meeting.

LIVE OAK BOAT RAMP UPDATE

Mr. Walker advised that the Live Oak boat ramp parking lot project was approved by the Board of County Commissioners for purchase from Boat Registration Fee revenues. The County Attorney's office will proceed with negotiations.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The July 3, 2012 meeting will be cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.